

Profiles of former GIPs



Lily Wong spent a summer working in Capulin Volcano National Monument. In addition to guiding tours, Lily worked on resource displays in the Visitor Center. Her displays included a magma

gas simulation, microscope of volcanic thin sections, and a volcanic sulfur smell simulation. Lily also worked on the park's disturbed lands restoration project.



As a successful petroleum geologist, Bob Rosé worked in many countries throughout the world. As a retired professional, his wealth of knowledge benefitted Pictured Rocks National Lakeshore, where

he synthesized years of research about the local geology. From this, the park produced a science bulletin. Bob found his time at the park to be "one of the best experiences in my life!"



Susan Joy provided guided walks and talks about the paleontology of Fossil Butte National Monument. She also collected, documented, and curated fossils. Susan thoroughly enjoyed her interaction

with the visitors, stating, "If one kid a day finds a fossil and gets excited about geology, then I feel like my work really means something."

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<http://www2.nature.nps.gov/grd/geojobs>

GIP Sponsors

- Geological Society of America (GeoCorps America Program)
- Association for Women Geoscientists
- American Geological Institute
- National Association for Black Geologists and Geophysicists



Denny Capps used GPS and photo monitored glacier retreat at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve.



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Natural Resource Program Center

Geoscientists-in-the-Parks Program



The Geoscientists-in-the-Parks program facilitates the temporary placement of geoscientists in NPS units to assist with resource management research, interpretation, and education projects.



Jenda Johnson combined her masters degree in volcanology and her career as a videographer to help Hawaii Volcanoes National Park document its volcanology. The park shows this video to the general public as well as to new park personnel.

Program Overview

The Geoscientists-in-the-Parks program began in 1996 when six geologists were temporarily placed in parks to address geologic needs. From that, an interdisciplinary program began and the numbers grew. In 2002, more than 65 geoscientists were placed in NPS units.

Park staff submit requests for geoscience work needs. The GIP coordinator compiles all of the requests and lists positions on the GIP website. Sponsors provide stipends and candidates for many positions. Other positions often have support dollars from volunteer expenses. GIPs are chosen from the applicants and placed in a park for up to 12 weeks.

On the cover: Miriam Hornstein researched the geology of Arches National Park for geologic interpretive sites along the Delicate Arch Viewpoint Trail, and gave geology tours of the park.

GIP Projects

The Geoscientists-in-the-Parks (GIP) Program is multi-disciplinary. Fields of interest include:

- General geology
- Environmental Geology
- Volcanology and Plate tectonics
- Glaciology
- Cave and karst science
- Soils and Geochemistry
- Disturbed lands restoration
- Paleontology
- Stratigraphy
- Hydrology and water quality
- Air quality



Angela Coleman found "the best of both worlds" helping research Triassic reptile footprints and sharing her expertise to help visitors become junior geologists at Capitol Reef National Park.

The work varies from park to park. Some projects might include:

- Assessing geologic hazards
- Summarizing research in a written format for park staff
- Assisting in paleontological site dig
- Coring glaciers for global warming studies
- Monitoring stream and water quality
- Writing training manuals for use by park resource and interpretive staff
- Monitoring air quality



Frequently Asked Questions

Who can apply?

Anyone who is a United States citizen in a geoscience field may apply. Occasionally, there are opportunities for international volunteers to work in National Parks. Level of expertise and education varies with each position. Past GIPs have been students (undergraduate, graduate or Ph.D), professors or professionals on sabbatical, and retired professionals.

Do I get paid?

GIPs are considered NPS volunteers. However, there are a number of stipended positions through partnerships that offer \$2500 for 10-12 weeks of work. This program is intended to provide outstanding field experiences, and help geoscientists build their resumes, while providing much-needed geoscience assistance to parks.

How do I apply?

Most positions are posted and filled by the end of February. For position listings, and highlights from previous years, go to our website.



Glenn Mutti designed a volcanic features inventory database at Craters of the Moon National Monument.

What information can I find on the website?

The website can be found at www2.nature.nps.gov/grd/geojob. It highlights past GIP projects, and provides profiles of those GIPs. It also posts all of the new positions and provides other helpful information about applying.